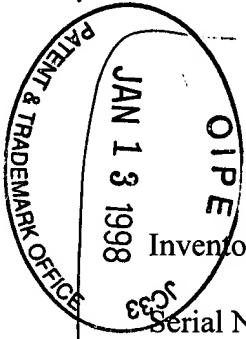


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PATENT
Murray 1-5

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Inventors: Murray et al.

Serial No.: 08/769,694

Group Art Unit: 2309

Filing Date: December 18, 1996

Examiner: R. Downs

Title: Apparatus and Method for Defining
Rules for Personal Agents

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

AMENDMENT

S I R:

In response to the Office Action mailed on October 28, 1997, the three-month statutory period for responding to the action expiring on January 28, 1998, the Applicants submit the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Amended) A method for a user to program a personal software agent using an agent manager, wherein said agent manager is connected to an input device for receiving instructions from the user, comprising the steps of:

creating a rule to control the personal software agent;

placing said rule in [an] a hierarchical order of rules to control the personal software agent;

agent;

determining whether said rule [is valid] conflicts with another rule within said hierarchical order; and

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